

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This Listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:*

Claims 1-55 (cancelled)

Claim 56 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of an organosilicon condensate which comprises reacting together:

(A) at least one silicon containing compound having at least one silanol group; and

(B) at least one silicon containing compound having at least one -OR group

wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, or an alkoxyalkyl group having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms in the presence of

(C) a calcium or magnesium catalyst selected to allow the reaction to proceed, wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is not calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, or magnesium carbonate; and

(D) at least one protic solvent; and

wherein the at least one silicon containing compound having at least one silanol group and the at least one silicon containing compound having at least one -OR group are in a molar ratio ranging from 1:2 to 2:1.

Claim 57 (cancelled):

Claim 58 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the organosilicon condensate is a siloxane.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A process according to claim 58 wherein the siloxane is a polysiloxane.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the at least one silicon containing compound having at least one silanol group is a silanol.

Claim 61 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol has between one and three unsubstituted or substituted hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

Claim 62 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol has one OH group.

Claim 63 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol has two OH groups.

Claim 64 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol has three OH groups.

Claim 65 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol has four OH groups.

Claim 66 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol is diphenyl silanediol.

Claim 67 (previously presented): A process according to claim 60 wherein the silanol bears a crosslinkable group.

Claim 68 (previously presented): A process according to claim 67 wherein the crosslinkable group is a double bond.

Claim 69 (previously presented): A process according to claim 68 wherein the double bond is a carbon-carbon double bond.

Claim 70 (previously presented): A process according to claim 69 wherein the double bond is selected from an acrylate double bond, a methacrylate double bond and a styrene double bond.

Claim 71 (previously presented): A process according to claim 67 wherein the crosslinkable group is an epoxide.

Claim 72 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the at least one silicon containing compound having at least one -OR group is a compound with the general formula



wherein y has a value of 0, 1, 2 or 3,

G represents a unsubstituted or substituted hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms or an alkoxyalkyl group having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 73 (previously presented): A process according to claim 72 wherein the at least one silicon containing compound having at least one -OR group is an alkoxy silane.

Claim 74 (previously presented): A process according to claim 73 wherein the alkoxy silane has one alkoxy group.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A process according to claim 73 wherein the alkoxy silane has two alkoxy groups.

Claim 76 (previously presented): A process according to claim 73 wherein the alkoxy silane has three alkoxy groups.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A process according to claim 73 wherein the alkoxy silane has four alkoxy groups.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A process according to claim 72 wherein (OR) is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, i-propoxy, n-butoxy, i-butoxy, t-butoxy.

Claim 79 (previously presented): A process according to claim 73 wherein the alkoxy silane bears a crosslinkable group.

Claim 80 (previously presented): A process according to claim 79 wherein the alkoxy silane bears a crosslinkable group on G.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A process according to claim 79 wherein the crosslinkable group is a double bond.

Claim 82 (previously presented): A process according to claim 81 wherein the double bond is a carbon-carbon double bond.

Claim 83 (previously presented): A process according to claim 81 wherein the crosslinkable group is a double bond selected from an acrylate double bond, a methacrylate double bond and a styrene double bond.

Claim 84 (previously presented): A process according to claim 79 wherein the crosslinkable group is an epoxide.

Claim 85 (previously presented): A process according to claim 73 wherein the alkoxy silane is a compound selected from the group consisting of 3-methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane, 3,3,3-trifluoropropyltrimethoxysilane, 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctyltrimethoxysilane,

octyltrimethoxysilane, 3-styrylpropyltrimethoxysilane, and 3-glycidoxypolytrimethoxysilane, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 86 (cancelled)

Claim 87 (currently amended): A process according to claim [[86]] 56 wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is calcium hydroxide, calcium oxide, magnesium hydroxide or magnesium oxide.

Claim 88 (previously presented): A process according to claim 87 wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is calcium hydroxide.

Claim 89 (previously presented): A process according to claim 87 wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is calcium oxide.

Claim 90 (previously presented): A process according to claim 87 wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is magnesium hydroxide.

Claim 91 (previously presented): A process according to claim 87 wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is magnesium oxide.

Claim 92 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the protic solvent is an alcohol.

Claim 93 (previously presented): A process according to claim 92 wherein the protic solvent is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, 1-butanol and 2-butanol.

Claim 94 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the protic solvent is water.

Claim 95 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the calcium or magnesium catalyst is separated from the organosilicon condensate.

Claim 96 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the catalyst is employed in an amount of from 0.0005 to 5% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 97 (previously presented): A process as claimed in claim 96 wherein the catalyst is employed in an amount of from 0.01 to 0.5% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 98 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 wherein the protic solvent is employed in an amount of from 0.02% to 200% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 99 (previously presented): A process according to claim 98 wherein the protic solvent is employed in an amount of from 0.2% to 100% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 100 (previously presented): A process according to claim 99 wherein the solvent is employed in an amount of 0.4 to 50% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 101 (currently amended): A process according to claim 100 wherein the solvent is water employed in an amount of ~~less than~~ 0.4 to 8% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 102 (currently amended): A process according to claim 101 wherein the solvent is water employed in an amount of ~~less than 0.4~~ 0.4 to 4% by mole based on the total silicon containing compounds.

Claim 103 (previously presented): A process according to claim 56 carried out at a temperature in the range from 40°C to 150°C.

Claim 104 (previously presented): A process according to claim 103 carried out at a temperature in the range from 50°C to 100°C.

Claim 105 (previously presented): A process according to claim 104 carried out at about 80°C.

Claim 106 (previously presented): A polysiloxane prepared by the method of claim 56 having an absorption of less than  $15\text{cm}^{-1}$  at about 2820nm.

Claim 107 (previously presented): A polysiloxane according to claim 106 having an absorption of less than  $7\text{cm}^{-1}$  at about 2820nm.